

# nflcp

Newsletter

National Federation of Local Cable Programmers

## First NFLCP Convention Draws 240



Karen Possner, House Communications Subcommittee, and Tom Casey, FCC Cable Bureau, participated in many convention workshops and discussions (photo, Bob Vitale).

by Gary Knowles

*It was the Sangria that made me accept the job of coordinating the NFLCP's First National Convention—Sangria and a half-dozen wild-eyed steering committee members gone berserk on public access discussions and Mexican hot sauce. They weakened my resistance and numbed my senses, cajoled my ego with compliments, filled my glass with Convincer, and then laid their vision on me.*

*I laughed and said, "Sure we can do it! Sure we can coordinate a cross country convention with half-a-hundred workshops and hold meetings besides and get all those names on the mailing lists connected to faces at a convention."*

*It wasn't until the next morning that I realized what the Sangria had done. . . .*

Let's wallow for a moment in our success. We deserve it. The First National Convention was a success beyond anyone's wildest expectations. We hoped to gather some 200 access people from around the country for 45 workshops. Over 240 dedicated producers, artists, facilitators, educators, librarians and regulators came and participated in 50 sessions. We hoped to conduct the business of the NFLCP and elect a National Board of Directors. We built an organization that's as solid as steel and as flexible as a willow. We wanted to bring isolated producers together to establish a nationwide support system. We became a family.

People and organizations came through for us. Carol Brown Eilber and the University of Wisconsin Exten-

sion supplied facilities and organizational leadership far beyond the call of duty. Sue Smoller, the City of Madison, and the Cable-TV Office crew worked with the Wisconsin Arts Board to record our sessions (more than 78 hours) and extend the information presented to those who were unable to attend. The National Endowment for the Arts backed their belief in us with a grant and sent Marion Dix to work with us. The people at the Madison Community Access Center welcomed us with great fanfare and Complete Channel TV featured us in a marathon four-hour live phone-in cable program. The people of Madison opened their homes to us. Local merchants donated refreshments, equipment, and a party room. Local musicians donated \$450 worth of music so that we could dance the Virginia reel.

George Stoney called us his children and said our work in access is just beginning. Stan VanDerbek dazzled us with new movements in the dance of the light fantastic. The FCC made themselves accessible through Tom Casey, Larry Bloom, and Sharon Briley...and then delivered the news of deregulation. Karen Possner came from the House Communications Subcommittee with similar news. Gene Carey told parables of grassroots wisdom, common courage, and individual dedication to "telling it as it is" that, when reflected by each of us in our work, will keep the light of access burning in this country even after the federal regulators think they've pulled the plug. Frank Carlile warned that access, by itself, is not enough to affect the changes we are after. Representatives of American Television and Communication Corporation (ATC) dem-

(continued on page 16)



# Letter From the Editors

Dear Readers,

This issue features the NFLCP's First National Convention, held in Madison, Wisconsin, July 6-9. We hope that for those who couldn't attend, these articles will help you share what many of us experienced in July, and whet your appetites for next year's Convention. On behalf of the Convention participants, the *News/letter* wishes to express its gratitude to the National Endowment for the Arts, the University of Wisconsin Extension, the City of Madison, the Madison Community Access Center, and all other organizations that made this Convention a milestone in the development of local origination and access programming.

Special thanks go to Gary Knowles, conference coordinator; Margie Nicholson, assistant coordinator; Carol Brown Eilber, University of Wisconsin Extension; and Sallie Fischer, project director.

Since the Convention, the *News/letter* Editorial Collective has come up with some new ways to facilitate input and participation from our readers. The collective wants to expand itself to include more members, as well as expand the entire newsletter committee. We, as the editorial collective, feel that expansion of the newsletter editorial collective and the newsletter committee is crucial to the growth and success of this publication and the organization it serves. Please turn to page 5 for more information on this important issue.

The Collective would like to welcome two new regular columnists, Paige Amidon, who will write on "access to all telecommunications, in particular, satellites," and Marta Peck, who is now our legal/advocacy editor. Please send all pertinent information, inquiries, etc. to these writers directly at the addresses at the bottom of their column. Jean Rice will continue to write her Community Education column. All materials concerning Community Education should be sent to her at: Hill Hollow Road, Petersburg, NY 12138. Susan Bednarczyk is always grateful to receive items for "Federation Trunkline"—send directly to: Susan Bednarczyk, c/o Hoyt, 14 Stuyvesant Oval, New York, NY 10009.

## Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor:

Since I did not get to introduce this matter during one of the business meetings at the NFLCP national convention due to the heavy agenda, I would like to pass the information on to you.

The issue is: getting consideration of present and future uses of video/cable technologies into consideration by the delegates of the various state pre-White House Conferences on Libraries and Information Science. Having attended one of the regional conferences in Illinois, which are preliminaries to the statewide ones, I am painfully aware that most of the grassroots delegates, two-thirds of whom are to be library "consumers," still do not realize that it is in their power to demand more viable information systems from their public libraries. And if they don't, it won't happen.

Video-aware people are needed as delegates (where they can wrangle appointment) or simply to present their views on the potential of video/cable tools for library use. I am enclosing sample resolutions that delegates presented at the NY state conference, and a listing of the dates and contact persons for all remaining pre-White

House Conferences. I believe the national one, toward which all this is building, will be in late 1979 or early 1980.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Rehnberg

*[Editor's Note: For a list of dates and contact people, as well as sample resolutions, contact Jean Rice, Chairperson, Community Education Committee, Hill Hollow Road, Petersburg, NY 12138.]*

Dear Editor:

I recently became a member of the organization and have found your *Newsletter* to be most beneficial and informative. Your newsletter makes very interesting reading for a novice to the cable industry such as myself.

As service coordinator for K&K Cable, it is part of my duty to submit material on the "Banner" of our character generator. It has been fun experimenting, and I would like to tell you about two ideas which I have used. The first one was the "Quote Contest." I typed out a famous quotation and stated that the first cable tv subscriber to call the office with the correct

author of the quote would receive a free month of cable tv service. Many people have stated that they enjoy the quotations and look forward to seeing them every day.

(continued on page 17)

## Table of Contents

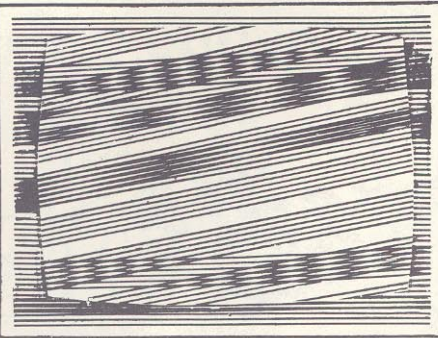
### ARTICLES

Convention Coordinator	
"Wallows" in Success.....	1
Stoney Delivers	
Keynote Address.....	3
Delegates Take Care	
of Business.....	4
Hometown USA	
Announces Winners.....	5

### FEATURES

Letter from the Editors.....	2
Letters to the Editor.....	2
Federation Trunkline.....	6
Uplink/Downlink.....	7
Convention Session.....	8
Info Matchup.....	20
Calendar.....	20





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The Editorial Committee established the following editorial policy which was accepted by the Steering Committee at its December, 1977 meeting:

The *NFLCP Newsletter* reserves the right to cut articles due to lack of space. It will publish articles that 1) are of general interest to cable programmers and media access advocates and 2) are of specific interest to NFLCP membership.

The criteria upon which articles are judged to be included in the *NFLCP Newsletter* are clarity, accuracy, fairness to subject, timeliness, newsworthiness, overall organization, and degree to which the article is thorough and complete.

**Editorial Collective:** Marilyn DeAngelis, Ann McIntosh, Barry McQuilken.

**Contributing Editors:** Paige Amidon, Susan Bednarczyk, Marta Peck, Jean Rice.

**Contributors:** Mickey Brandt, Paul Denn, Roni Lipton, Helen Rudie, Larry Staab.

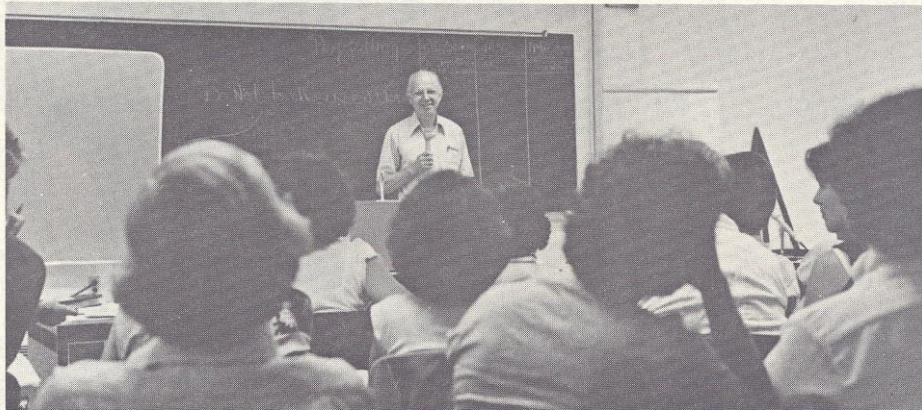
**Layout and Design:** Ann Marion, Barry McQuilken.

**Circulation and Subscription Manager:** Susan Bednarczyk.

**Special thanks to:** Susan Siens and Page McLane (typesetting), Urban Planning Aid (layout room).

## Access Best in U.S., Says Stoney

### AMC Director Gives Keynote Speech



*AMC Director George Stoney delivers keynote speech (photo, David Bloch).*

by Marilyn V. DeAngelis

"No place on earth is doing access the way we're doing it in the United States," George Stoney, Alternate Media Center (AMC) director told a gathering of 200 conventioners in his keynote address.

The electronic media climate is building up like pollution around the world, according to Stoney, who traveled around the globe researching access to media. In almost every country that uses television, Stoney discovered that American programming quickly undermines all other programming.

However, attempts in other countries to use public access are very thin, the avuncular advisor to the NFLCP revealed. He cited the example of England's "open door" access, which, he said, consisted of one night of access each week for the entire country.

Stoney pointed to both the success and failures of the access movement in the United States.

"We've answered many questions but the main problem is finding a way to support access."

In Stoney's opinion, national legislation supporting access, though badly needed, is not the only answer. Instead, Stoney advocated building constituencies for access in local communities as a more hopeful approach.

Stoney, who founded the AMC cable television internship program, then added a new twist to his message.

"This is where most of you have failed," he said, "we have to recognize the limitations of cable."

Stoney advised the group that the

principle of access to all media is important—and cable is just a rehearsal for this.

"People who pin hopes on cable will be disappointed, he warned, "if cable is not needed for better reception, it will stick at 33 per cent penetration."

Instead, Stoney emphasized the importance of closed circuit uses of video, criticizing attempts by some access programmers to "put too much on air." He urged the audience to work on facilitating programming by concerning themselves with the process of "programming by and for the people."

"This meeting tells me there are lots of people not just interested in getting on TV...being a facilitator is something very special," Stoney said.

Regarding the role of the AMC in the access movement, Stoney told the group the time had come for the program to continue on its own.

"It's no longer your show," he told the original AMC interns who founded the NFLCP a little over two years ago.

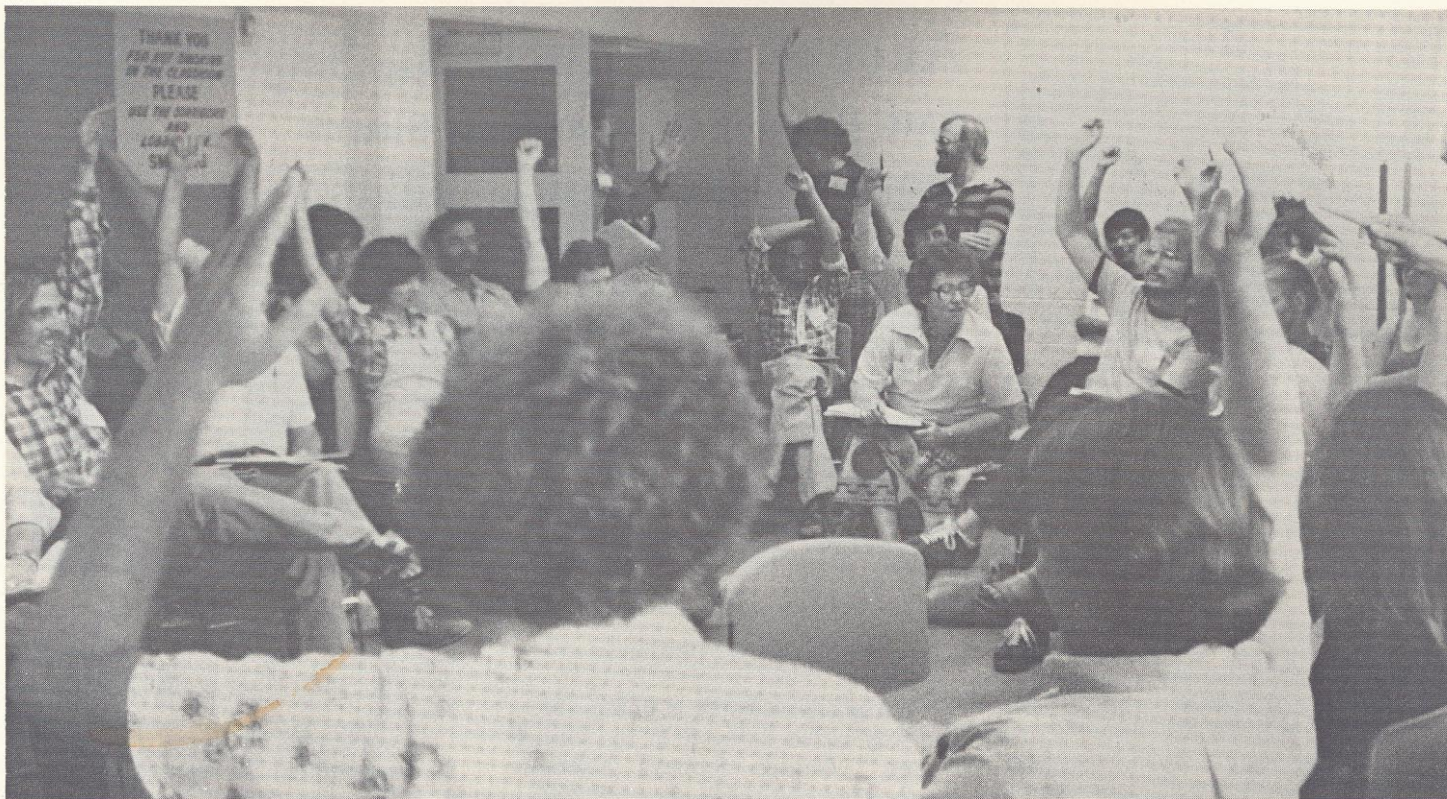
Looking to the future, Stoney predicted growth for access. Access will spread if programmers uphold the basic principles of using opportunities to get true information across, and not just keeping channels busy, he said.

In conclusion, the AMC director empathized with the NFLCP's struggle for access.

"It gets awfully lonely out there," he said, "trusting and seeing other people's work is important."

"You are a great bunch of volunteers, pioneers and friends," he concluded.





*All in favor? Delegates meet on Friday evening (photo, Bob Vitale).*

## Delegates Take Care of Business

by Mickey Brandt

A new "Fed" was born at the first NFLCP national convention in Madison, Wisconsin. Out of a hectic four day weekend of meetings and more meetings, a 49 member delegation of NFLCP members from around the country shaped a firm new structure for the organization to be tried and tested in the coming year.

The political process of deciding the issues confronting this infant organization was the real story at the July 6-9 gathering of over 200 community television supporters. For the first time, NFLCP members were able to meet as a voting body to discuss and decide important political and policy issues facing the NFLCP.

The political process was democratic, but very time consuming. The delegate assembly met in general session for a total of 18 hours during the four day convention. Uncounted more time was spent in committee work sessions. At times, issues were decided by critically close votes, where one delegate more or less could have given the

NFLCP a different structure. Late meetings, extra sessions, and too many "points of order" made some people angry and also very tired.

Drafting the by-laws for the organization occupied the largest portion of the delegates' time. During the committee sessions on the by-laws (one of which ran 11 straight hours), more than half of the delegates contributed in some way. Under the outstanding leadership of David Bloch of Piqua, Ohio, the committee struggled with every conceivable point of view, aiming for consensus on every issue. The final draft of the by-laws reported to the floor reflected this consensus and also pinpointed four major issues which seriously split the delegation.

One of the key issues the committee tackled was the question of whether or not the proposed Executive Director of the organization, to be hired by the Board of Directors (a position as yet unfilled), should also serve as a voting member of the board.

The committee was also charged with examining whether or not the chairpeople of standing NFLCP committees should serve on the board without being elected by the delegation. (Up until the convention, committee heads had automatically been appointed to the board.)

Two other crucial issues concerned regional representation and recruitment of minority members. The committee discussed the question of whether all regions should have an equal number of delegates, or whether representation should be proportionate to total regional membership. Regarding recruitment of minorities, the committee confronted the question of how far the organization should go to recruit minority members.

It was not until Saturday night at nine-thirty that these crucial issues reached the floor. Although business sessions were held on Thursday and Friday, most of the allotted time was spent on reports from committees,

*(continued on page 14)*



# Hometown USA Announces Winners



"The 'Hometown USA' Video/Film Festival was a celebration of the state of access and independent programming," according to Larry Staab, Festival Coordinator. More than 45 videotapes were received from a national cross-section, and eight (5½ hours) were selected as a showcase for the NFLCP's "First National Bicycle Tour."

Winning tapes, screened on Saturday night of the Convention, are:

- "Showdown at the Hoedown," by **Sol Korine and Blaine Dunlap**. A Tennessee Fiddlers Jamboree featuring local music, crafts, philosophy, and humor.

- "This is TV—America," by **Tom DeWitt**. A satire of standard television fare featuring discussion and skits on journalism, soaps, game shows, sex, and violence.

- "As Large as Life and Twice as Natural," by **David Brown and Greg Pratt**. A documentary of "Natural Life," a nationally and internationally known jazz group living and performing in the "Twin Cities."

- "You Can Use Your Own Words," by **Brian Lee and Rachel Kranz**. This tape follows a multi-racial group of St. Paul, Minn. high school students as they create *No View High-Rise*, their musical play about inner-city problems.

- "A Common Man's Courage," by **Jim Mulligan and John DeGraf**. The story of John T. Bernard, a radical Congressman from Northern Minnesota, who was very active in the 30s and 40s in international affairs.

- "A Time Piece," by **David Brown, Ellen Hyker, and Peggy Imig**. This program celebrates time and its relativity to us all.

- "Eat Your Vegetables," by **Jim Frances**. This tape was produced in Oregon at a special open school which makes every effort to get its students involved in the learning process.

- "A Ryder's Colors," by **Billy Soul**. A documentary about two members of a bikers' club who were killed two days after the original taping and editing were finished.

Although "Hometown" was not set up as a competition, the judges were asked to choose on the basis of subject matter, technical quality, and how well a given tape represented a cross section of materials received. Judges Barb Luderowski, Nancy Jesuale, James Irwin, Sue Staab, and David Paschel represent a variety of backgrounds including an access coordinator, a filmmaker, and a film critic.

"Hometown" grew out of three concerns expressed by independent video and filmmakers and public access programmers: the need for a representative example of contemporary software for use on public access channels, the need to facilitate community use of CATV for social change, and the need to illustrate the "state of the art" of independent access programming on a national scale.

## Winners Available for Tour

These tapes are available for the "Bicycle Tour." Any public access programmer, organization, school, library, museum, or public broadcaster may become a host site for the tour.

Host sites are required to pay an \$80 sponsoring fee for the 5½ hours of programming. Most sites have the privilege of using the tapes for fund raising on a non-profit donation basis during their one week stay. Half of this fee will be distributed to the award winning producers. The other half will go to the NFLCP for maintaining and developing this distribution network.

"I estimate that we may get as many as 200 host sites across the country this year. That means the award winners

could receive about \$1000 for each tape and the NFLCP could have about \$8000 for development," said Staab.

Those people and organizations interested in being host sites or helping with the "National Bicycle Tour"—Distribution Network can contact **Larry Staab, Festival Coordinator, 456 S. Atlantic Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224.** ■

## Newsletter Committee Seeks Members

The *NFLCP Newsletter* is currently looking for new members for the Newsletter Committee and the editorial collective. Anyone with an interest in advertising sales, circulation/subscription, or an interest in reporting on regional events around the country would be of great benefit to the committee. However, any member in good standing, especially those who represent various NFLCP regions, is invited to join.

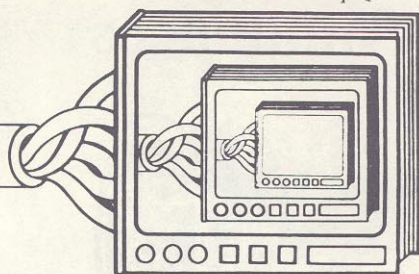
Since the editorial collective must work very closely together in producing the newsletter, it is asked that members who wish to join the collective live in proximity to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and also have a skill or interest in journalistic writing, reporting, design, or layout.

Interested members are asked to contact either Ann, Marilyn, or Barry, in care of the *NFLCP Newsletter*, Box 119, Cambridge, MA 02142.



# Federation Trunkline

by Susan Bednarczyk



*Everything was happening at Lake Mendota* this July, when NFLCP members from everywhere met at the beautiful Bay Center on the University of Wisconsin campus. It was the largest face-to-face meeting of local cable folks in years. The people, the weather, the scenery, the excitement whetted everyone's appetite for another get-together as soon as possible and energized all 1000%....Overheard in every corridor: "It's so nice to meet you *in person!*"...And from the guest speakers: "I've never been to a convention like this—everyone is so serious about what they're doing...so committed to making the most out of every minute and meeting in Madison!"

*Conventioneers were seeing double* at the downtown open house of the *Madison Community Access Center*, but it wasn't because of the refreshments. MCAC and Gary Knowles' weekly call-in program, "Live On Six" out at Complete Channel TV were collaborating on a live, split-screen gala over cable, featuring cable programmers arriving early for the convention. Tuxedoed *Scottie Spaine* presided over the MCAC end of the proceedings and kept the banter going with all who shuttled out to LO Channel 6....As if all this weren't enough of a welcome for NFLCP'ers, MCAC kept an open-door policy at its hospitality suite at the Bay Center, organized nightly cable showings on access for convention/conventioneers' tapes, and officially welcomed NFLCP to Madison in their outstanding local newsletter. Who could ask for more?

*In a bid to make Mad City the Cable Capital*, Sue Smoller and those dedicated folks from the *City Office of Cable TV* managed to audiotape and/or videotape every session at the convention, organize the video screening room, sell NFLCP T-shirts, and record a welcome from the Wisconsin Governor to the conventioneers....*Carol Brown Eilber* used her cool to untangle

any bit of confusion rearing its head at the Bay Center....Convention coordinators *Margie Nicholson* and *Gary Knowles*, became walking information centers....*Sallie Fischer*, who lined up NEA support for the Convention, continued to marvel that everything came together so ideally....Would you do it all again, folks?

Man-of-the-week was *George Stoney* of NYU's Alternate Media Center who gave the convention keynote address and later received NFLCP's Award for Achievement in Humanistic Communications. On both occasions, introductions were made by *Manuel Gonzalez*, who poetically summarized the kinds of personal and professional support that George continues to offer to videomakers excited about prospects for community communications.

*The gang's all here*, now that NFLCP has elected its first Board of Directors....In addition to the regional reps (newest from the Central States being *Kathy Enlow* of the Mishawaka Public Library, Indiana) and our Standing Committee reps, the Board's complete!...Congratulations to *Sue Buske*, joining the Board and moving to Ohio to head up the Miami Valley Cable TV Council....*Sallie Fischer*, selected to be NFLCP's 1978-79 Chairperson...*David O'Keefe*, of the Rome, Georgia, Tri-Cities Public Library, who made his candidate's speech via video...*Carol Brown Eilber* of the University of Wisconsin Extension, who pledged to represent the "over fifty group" in NFLCP...*Bob Rodriguez*, the "speak softly" candidate from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, who impressed everyone on the By-Laws Committee in the wee hours of the A.M. and whose main interest is in development of children's programming...and last-but-not-least, the NFLCP's new Vice-Chairperson *Dave Bloch* from Piqua, Ohio (more about Dave below)....Welcome, too, to *Bob Vitale*, the Advocacy Committee's rep

on the Board who caucused and shutterbugged throughout the convention....Final congrats to *Manuel Gonzalez*, our new National Treasurer and Far West rep!

*By the dawn's early light*, sat those dedicated stalwarts known for the duration of the convention as the By-Laws Committee. As an outcropping of the long-running NFLCP lunchtime business meetings, hearty individuals met night-after-night, day-after-day on various floors of the convention center to hammer out governing rules for the Fed which would please everyone. With marathon-man *Dave Bloch* at the helm, the group did just that and won the frenzied admiration of the rest of their delegation.

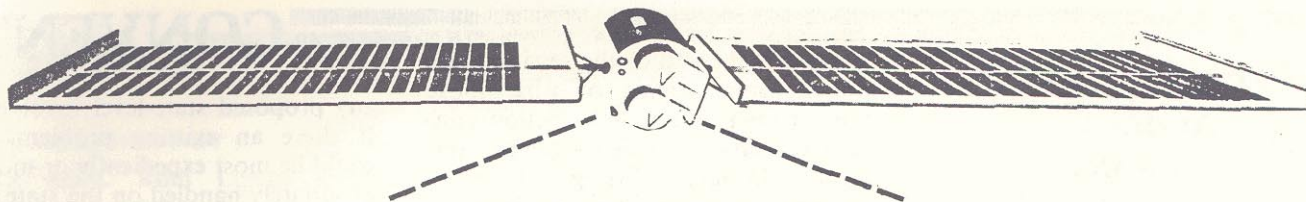
*Cream of the crop*, among other outstanding panels/workshops/speakers...Media Bus' *Nancy Cain*, who wowed people everywhere she went...FCC staffers who zestfully plunged into the heart of practically every media advocacy session....*Bert Cowlan* of PISA, who explained why cable programmers are going to have to bone up on telecommunications/satellite developments *now* in order to be in the ballgame in the 1990s and beyond....*Robin Weber* of AIVF who continuously opened the eyes of cablers to the mutual public broadcasting interests of brethren independents....*Tim Kennedy*, a social-change videomaker, who made himself accessible to all in every nook and cranny of the conference....The acclaimed "Access in Other Countries" panel, which gave a first-person introduction of the Canadian cable experience....And that great-balls-of-fire encounter to discuss "The Great Communications Act Rewrite" was one of those occasions not to be missed!

*Strange, but true*...More than one conventioneer thought the airport-to-convention center taxi driver had to be doing some leg-pulling when he boasted about being one of the keynote speakers at the convention. It all became truer-than-life when Mad City access celeb *Gene Carey* stepped up to the mike on opening night to give attendees a taste of what constitutes "free speech" on his weekly series "Against the Grain" ("Do ya's wanna hear how I came to be arrested for attempted murder with my cab?...")

*There's not enough space on the page* to mention the names of all the

(continued on page 15)





# Uplink/Downlink

by Paige Amidon

## Convention Sessions

The NFLCP National Convention provided an opportunity for those interested in different technologies to meet one another, and to learn about satellites. Two workshops were held: "Introduction to Satellites"—the technology; and "Satellites II"—the politics.

"Introduction to Satellites" was conducted by Gary Schober, an independent consultant. Schober described both the basic technical operation and economic factors of a communications satellite. A communications satellite is simply a man-made object carrying electronic equipment capable of receiving signals from an earth station and transmitting those signals back to a desired area. Commercial satellites now in use have from 12 to 24 transponders. It is the transponder's job to receive the signal, change its frequency, amplify it, then retransmit that signal back to earth.

One transponder can handle 600 two-way audio signals or one video signal. This 600:1 ratio explains why TV is called the "hog" of the spectrum, and why using a satellite to transmit video is so expensive.

Another important economic element is the relationship between the size and power of satellites and earth stations—the more powerful the satellite the smaller and less expensive the satellite dish necessary to receive the signal.

Schober took an important step toward the demystification of satellites when he closed the session by answering numerous questions about transponders, synchronous satellites, footprints, orbits, and launchings.

Bert Cowlan, Public Interest Satellite Association (PISA); and Susan Bednardzyk, Jean Rice and myself from the Community Video Satellite Project (CVS) made up the Satellites II

panel. This session focused on the political, economic, and technical realities of public service groups obtaining access to satellites.

The session began with a brief description of PISA and CVS. PISA was founded in 1975 by Bert Cowlan and Andrew Horowitz to spearhead a broadbased public interest effort in the comsat field. It has as its most immediate concern help for those nonprofit organizations most in need of the benefits of satellite technology but least able to present their cases either because of a lack of technical knowledge, weakness in political clout, insufficient funds or a combination of these factors.

In late 1976, PISA met with the recently formed NFLCP and presented the idea that NFLCP should develop an experimental project using a NASA satellite. Since the federation was busy organizing at the time, the Community Video Satellite Project was established—its primary aim to investigate ways that nonprofit community video centers could utilize satellite technology.

Over the last two years, PISA and CVS have focused on identifying and developing low cost access to experimental and commercial satellites, including: NASA's experimental satellites, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting satellite system, and the possible development of a public service satellite. Unfortunately at this time these possibilities look rather bleak.

The NASA experimental satellites which provide free satellite time for accepted experimenters have already outlived their life expectancy. Cowlan reported that the CTS satellite, NASA's highest power satellite, utilizes the least expensive ground stations (\$2,000-\$5,000), and is projected to be non-operational by the end of 1978.

Hopes of negotiating with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to share time on their satellite system (WESTAR) seem impossible now, since it seems the PBS programming planned fills all their transponders.

NASA's plans to develop the Public Service Satellite are not progressing due in part to having so many governmental departments involved in the decision, in part to hardware manufacturers, a strong lobbying force in Washington, who feel NASA should only be involved in the research and development of communications satellites.

Currently a major portion of PISA's work is focused on assuring that all conceivable technical options remain open to meet emerging needs from the public service sector. (See below "PISA Files on WARC.")

Both satellite workshops were well attended and pointed to the need for more opportunities for Federation members to become better acquainted with other technologies. *Both sessions were audiotaped and are now available for a nominal fee through the NFLCP national office.*

## PISA Files on World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC)

The Public Interest Satellite Association submitted a filing on July 14 to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry on the development of U.S. positions for the World Administrative Radio Conference. The filing was made with the National Instructional Telecommunications Council, Inc. (NITC), an association of public service owners and licensees of Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) systems.

The WARC, to be held in Geneva in

*(continued on page 16)*



## Convention Audio Available!

Audio Tapes of the Convention Sessions are now available through the NFLCP Library, South Hadley Public Library, Bardwell St., South Hadley, MA 01075. Catalogues are available for 50¢ (this will be remitted if tapes are purchased). Conference attendees can order from their program schedule. Cost: \$2.50 per hour cassette for members, \$3.00 for non-members. If four or more tapes are purchased, you get 10% off. Allow four weeks for delivery.

## Workshop Confronts Women's Issues

A videotape of a children's beauty contest in a Montgomery Ward store in Kingston, New York, made by Nancy Cain of Media Bus was a highlight of the session on TV Women and Women in TV on Saturday afternoon. Produced without narration, the tape shows the devastating effect this event had on the young contestants and their mothers and of the total oblivion to this effect on the part of the judges and sponsors.

This example and other instances mentioned by participants in the session sparked a lively discussion of various issues concerning women and media. Among these are the problems of women producers getting their tapes played and marketed, whether women's works *should* be shown on "normal" channels or whether small, intimate sessions with discussions are more effective, how men who are concerned can aid in the treatment of women as media subjects, how men react to having a woman explain technical video processes to them, how to use video for consciousness-raising, whether such tapes should be low-key or as strong as possible, how women working with men can avoid carrying the deck rather than the camera, etc., etc.

Toward the end of the session there was a brainstorming of what those present could do to take action concerning women and media. Suggestions include: Compile a listing of tapes by and about women; get an article in this *Newsletter*; schedule a longer workshop session on this topic at next year's convention; hold this type of session at the Regional meetings; have a women's media conference; be more insistent upon affirmative action within the Federation; encourage production of more tapes on women who are role models; urge everyone to subscribe to "Media Report on Women," edited by Dr. Donna Allen, 3306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

A woman from South Carolina asked for help with a problem in filling a half hour weekly cable slot with programming meaningful to women yet suited to sponsorship by a small college public relations department. Oral history was suggested as a way of consciousness raising without offending the old grads or administration of a rather traditional United Methodist college.

## State Regulation Featured

by Roni Lipton

Jean Rice, New York State Cable Commission staff, opened discussion, asking panelists to describe what happens with and without state regulation, and what issues programmers without state regulation should consider. With the deregulatory mood growing stronger in Washington—at the FCC, in the courts, and in Congress—more attention is being focused on state-level regulation. Many access advocates see state regulation as "our only hope" if the federal access mandate is removed.

Dr. Don Le Duc (University of Wisconsin/Madison) urged the group to approach state regulation with some cautious questions and clear, realistic objectives. The term "state regulation" itself can mean anything from a single cable statute regarding theft of cable services to a full regulatory agency with extensive powers. He urged advocates in those states to look first at the need for and objectives of

# CONVENTION

any proposed state-level involvement. Is there an existing problem which could be most expediently or more appropriately handled on the state level? Is there a lack of a ready solution at any other level? Close attention must also be given to the political realities of any given state, including such factors as the strength of municipal authority vs. state authority. Only after careful study of these issues should you proceed to determine what kind of state role, if any, is needed. Le Duc suggested that an agency to provide expert technical assistance to municipal franchising authorities would be more appropriate for addressing many issues than a powerful state regulatory authority.

Sharon Breiley (FCC Cable Television Bureau) presented an overview of the current status of state regulation around the country. A total of 41 states have enacted at least one statute specifically applicable to cable television, whereas only 11 states currently regulate cable on a comprehensive basis through a state agency. Five states have pre-empted local franchising of cable systems by state law: Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Hawaii, and Alaska. In five other states the regulatory plan either has established or has not pre-empted local franchising authority: Nevada, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Minnesota.

A recent study funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) attempted to analyze the impact of state regulation of cable television on the provision of service, the numbers of subscribers and the rates charged by cable companies. Regulating states have higher rates, but benefits as well. (Penetration levels and ownership factors show no difference in regulated vs. unregulated states.) The study finds that the sole impact of state regulation was an increase of about twenty cents per month in subscriber rates.

New York has the largest and perhaps most comprehensive state regula-

(continued on next page)

# CONVENTION



# SESSIONS

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tory program. Roni Lipton (NYS Commission on Cable Television) described the approach taken by the NY Legislature in creating the State Commission in 1972. Rather than imposing direct regulation, NY adopted franchising procedures and franchise standards to be followed by local municipal franchising authorities. The Commission issues orders granting certificates of confirmation to approve applicants following local franchising. There is a very active program of municipal assistance, with Commission staff working on a consultant basis with local municipal officials and community groups to prepare and analyze Requests for Proposals, franchises, franchise amendments and renewals, and educate communities about alternative utilization of cable services. It is primarily through this approach that New York State has been most helpful to access and local cable programming. New York does have directly applicable technical standards. In addition to requiring periodic performance test results to be filed, a mobile test vehicle visits systems on a routine schedule as well as upon request by local municipalities or in response to extensive subscriber complaints.

The Minnesota Cable Communications Board is the only state regulatory agency to have gone beyond the FCC minimum standards to require that every occupational system in the state reserve at least one channel for access. Operators are also required to develop and file access channel operating rules with the State Board. Anita Benda (MCCB) explained that in addition to their basic regulatory functions—prescribing municipal franchising procedures, minimum franchise standards, and reviewing and certifying franchises—the MCCB has given top priority to the encouragement and support of community programming. The staff has worked to develop itself as a resource center, and has prepared a number of informational booklets and guidelines on such things as non-profit incorporation, approaches to

funding access, and legal guidance on obscenity and defamation. In addition to working with the required citizen advisory boards and other interested groups on skill-building workshops, the Board publishes a newsletter and has held a statewide conference for exchange of programming ideas and information. ■

## Independents and Community Programmers Share Goals

by Susan Bednarczyk

In remarks that seemed highly unusual for a panelist at the first day of a cable programmers' convention, George Stoney of NYU's Alternate Media Center told the audience, "Sometimes television gets in the way of getting your message across." He urged a re-thinking of the reasons for which those assembled became involved with "access." His point was that many programmers get so discouraged by the lack of access to broadcast television, proper editing facilities, and so on, that they often overlook the fact that their goals might be reached more easily if they concentrated upon using closed-circuit video techniques where appropriate and using the concept of "access" in a more meaningful way—to ensure that as communication facilitators they bring the voices of previously unheard community members to the attention of the larger group.

These comments began a discussion of "Community TV Without Cable" with an audience that had primarily remained in their seats from the previous panel "Independent Film and Videomakers." Since the previous discussion concentrated on the plight of the independent in gaining access, the question was raised: Is there a philosophical difference between those "independent" videomakers making products for general distribution and broadcast and "community facilitators" working in

closed-circuit and cable to reach a narrowly defined audience?

Robin Weber of the Association for Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF) had earlier outlined systems for independent video/film distribution on pay cable and gaining access to the public broadcasting system, emphatically pointed out that "independents" and "community facilitators" are often the same individuals. She stated that AIVF has an organizational interest in supporting both types of activity and requested that separations no longer be made between the two.

Howard Horton of Media Works (Somerville, MA) suggested that videomakers look to pattern themselves after individuals and organizations succeeding in both arenas, such as Downtown Community Video of New York, which has repeatedly produced quality programming that gives a voice to disenfranchised segments of the urban community, provides technical video training, and has successfully obtained local broadcast time.

Justin Galler of Dubuque Community Access TV suggested a second role model when he praised Communications for Change, a social-change organization which uses closed-circuit video to serve social service agencies in Chicago, was the catalyst for the formation of a local videomakers association, and houses a community editing facility.

To underscore the importance of these groups' efforts and Stoney's earlier comments on the quest for "access," Madison videomaker Glen Silber, a CPB Revolving Documentary Fund award recipient, stated, "If the project has true benefit to the community and if the programmer is committed to this purpose, systems will develop naturally for the project to find its way to its intended audience." Silber emphasized that high costs of producing broadcast TV documentaries should not thwart videomakers' intentions. He optimistically assured all that if a project was truly important, a committed and insistent producer would find a way to accomplish it within the limitations of his or her budget—whether the project was realized over cable, on broadcast, or in closed-circuit viewing groups.

# SESSIONS



At the earlier "Independent Film & Videomaker" panel, participants told of local involvement with public broadcasting by programmers in Seattle, Madison, New York, and Minneapolis. Further cooperation between NFLCP and AIVF was urged in the areas of media advocacy and membership services. It was also suggested that there be wider funding available for instructional videotapes that could be produced by local videomakers, since educational television now extends beyond public TV to educational access channels on cable, on-campus cable systems, and in-school video playback systems.

The advocacy efforts of AIVF in the area of public television were described by Robin Weber, who urged all present to be in touch with the National Task Force on Public Broadcasting. This ad hoc committee of national media groups seeks legislation to increase funding for independents on PBS, establish wider public participation in programming, and establish facilities grants. (*Ed. note: At the time of this writing, the House of Representatives approved the amendments that the Task Force was supporting to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Appropriations Bill HR 9620. See article this issue.*)

A later convention panel on "Public Broadcasting and the Independent Producer: A Question of Access" featured Larry Dickerson from WHA-TV in Madison, video artist Stan VanDerBeek, and Justin Galler speaking about their own and others' experience gaining access to local public broadcasting systems for playback of programming. All speakers agreed that finding funding and adequate technical production support within the PBS has been problematic at best in the past. ■

## Zeroing in on Local Franchising

Viewpoints concerning public access to municipal cable systems discussed at the NFLCP First National Convention focused on FCC regulatory uncertainties as well as cable company contract promises, both of which local commu-

nities must brave with regard to their cable franchise.

Presenting the position of various perspectives pertaining to municipal cable franchising were Sue Smoller of Madison Municipal Regulations, Larry Bloom of the FCC, David Korte of Cable Television Information Consultants (CTIC), Laurie Leonard of ATC (a large MSO), Natalie Smith of the Madison CATV Regulatory Board, and Blue Carreker of CCATV, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Future community cable franchising decisions were discussed by Bloom. They will be most affected by the outcome of the Midwest Video decision and the rewrite of the Communications Act now underway. Should the FCC withdraw its minimal access regulations, problems for local programmers will ensue, unless municipal contracts with the cable company include restatement of current FCC regulations.

Sue Smoller pointed out that municipal ownership of a cable franchise does not necessarily mean that sound effort at program access will be attempted. Each community, with different needs and wants, is addressed by city council members who may themselves lack understanding or be fearful of public access, and therefore, restrictive in the adoption of local regulations effecting programming.

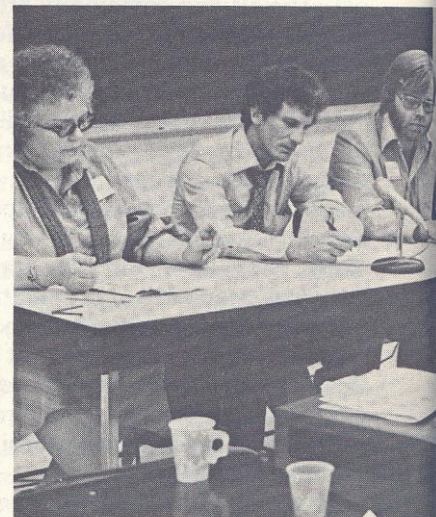
Competitive franchise offers submitted by cable companies eager for the contract are no benefit in communities where the decision makers do not understand how to interpret promised provisions. Help from consulting agencies, such as CTIC, was discussed by Korte. CTIC assists locals in the franchising process by studying community needs, examining the realistic feasibility of the cable companies' offers, outlining enabling ordinances and examining the government regulatory posture.

Laurie Leonard pointed out that the earlier lack of investment capital prevented cable companies from expanding; but now, in a competitive market, a city can demand services geared to its particular needs. Suggesting some guidelines for accepting a company's proposal, such as voting on local ownership, programming, rates, corporation track records, affirmative action, access, etc., Leonard believes

subscribers want alternative programming and she uses access as a selling point. ATC will soon begin hiring local access directors as soon as franchises are finalized, believing that the community must become involved and educated as to how to use local channels once they exist.

According to Carreker, CCATV Amherst had a long struggle, but finally succeeded in obtaining an independent access center in their franchise, without interference from the city or the cable company.

Unable to receive any administrative costs from the company, the group will approach the city next. She stressed the



*Local Franchising and Regulator Panel: Madison, Wisconsin; Larry Bloom, FCC; Cable Television Information Center; Laurie Leonard, ATC; Regulatory Board; Blue Carreker, CCATV (Vital).*

need for minimum federal access requirements as it was the major bargaining point CCATV used in its negotiations.

Public access to cable facilities serving local municipalities is a complex issue with far-reaching ramifications for access producers and programmers. Franchising contracts with cable companies and community regulations are currently being developed by local governments. Input into the decisions made as an initial contracts are developed will affect the future of public access to cable television. ■

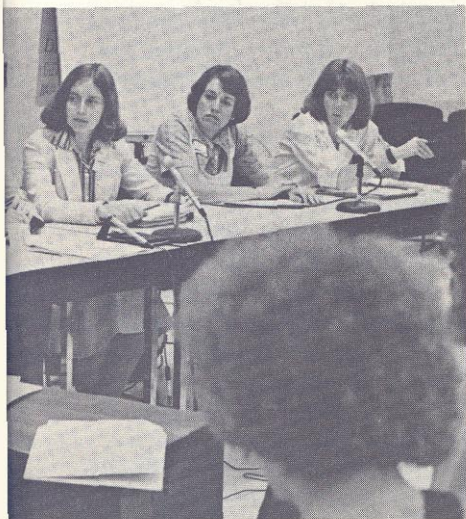


# SESSIONS

How to ....

## Organize Your Organization

Conference workshops on "Organizing Your Organization," "The Community Connection," and the "Elusive Local Dollar" focused on the need for public access groups to organize themselves, relate well to their communities, and develop funding strategies. These three sessions had



left to right: Merry Sue Smoller, City of Cable Bureau; David Korte, Cable Television, ATC; Natalie Smith, Madison CATV, Amherst, Massachusetts (photo, Bob

many things in common. How do we build effective boards and programming groups? How do we effectively use volunteers, both on our channels and in administration? How do we become politically effective—especially in conservative communities? How do we turn all our groups into stable long-term funded organizations?

Access people from Manhattan Cable, Bloomington, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming, Michigan compared notes on the development of vastly different centers.

The session, "Organizing Your Organization," was moderated by George Stoney from the Alternate Media Center in New York and included David Hoke of the NFLCP Advocacy Committee and Paul Denn from Community Video Center, San Diego. George opened the session by asking the 20 people in attendance to summarize how their organizations are operated.

The group found that the most common problems for access organizations are to involve the right kinds of people on boards, and to streamline organizational decision making so that staff and volunteers can work effectively. There was a lot of discussion about the importance of business-like corporate activities, meaningful community involvement, and making the transition from a group of volunteer citizens into an established community organization.

The last part of the session brought up some differences among participants regarding the function of an organization's board of directors. George Stoney said the most effective way to involve the Board of Directors is for them to have direct contact with the programming and development of the public access channels, even to the point of producing programs, viewing tapes, and working on filling the channels. On the other side of the coin, Paul Denn from San Diego felt that boards should be totally removed from programming and operation of public access channels in order to keep board members from asserting individual preference or censorship against programming that they may not like. Both views agreed that boards may take responsibility for channel development through policy decisions which encourage use of the channel, staff development, and promotional campaigns regarding the services and uses of the channels.

This discussion continued into the next session, "The Community Connection." Andy Beecher, AMC intern from Buffalo, New York, chaired the panel with Harriet Moss from Main Street Video (STAND) in Derby, Connecticut; Marta Peck of York Community Access; and George Stoney. About 60 people attended this workshop and discussed the use of volunteers, com-

munity involvement, and building the board. Perhaps the best recommendation to come out of this discussion was that all staff positions, whether paid or volunteer should have very explicit descriptions of the job to be done and the time period for which the person will work with the center. In this way, volunteers can understand what they have committed themselves to do, and can renew or negotiate their duties at an agreed upon date. Thus, the interpersonal problems that arise from poor organization can be avoided. There was general agreement that a paid staff is an asset to the public access organization.

In the session called the "Elusive Local Dollar," Gary Knowles, convention coordinator, Brian Owens from Austin Community Television and Paul Denn from San Diego Community Video Center discussed how to make organizational structures pay off financially.

Brian Owens opened the session with an overview of Austin Community Television, a totally volunteer and totally self-supporting organization. Some of the successful activities that Austin uses to raise money are stocking and selling video tapes and accessories, submitting small program proposals to local organizations on topics which will appeal to the community, and involving local foundations in the affairs of the access center. Brian also gave insight into how to obtain funds from national arts and humanities foundations.

Paul Denn from San Diego gave a rundown on how Community Video Center (CVC) has developed over the last three years. In San Diego there are now 54 staff positions (mostly CETA) related to public access throughout CVC, educational institutions, and other community organizations. Denn stressed that access centers should not only build themselves into organizations, but should diversify into training, research, and other activities which will attract the support and involvement of schools, government, and service groups. Thus, should the access organization fall on hard times, other groups can carry on in the operation and development of public access channels. In addition, Denn said

# SESSIONS



CVC's success can be attributed to involving community leaders in the membership and the board; developing a record in placement of trainees with private business; trading services such as production and scriptwriting for equipment use; intern programs with schools; and, most importantly, learning to promote access activities without alienating the conservative elements of the community.

Gary Knowles of Madison, Wisconsin, finished the session by stressing the importance of integrity of fulfilling contracts, following through on commitments, and learning to operate like a business.

Naturally, access in every community is different. However, one final recommendation that may help all centers—this is to develop the center so that every service offered pays for itself in some way, either through fees, financing, sponsorship, or trade-offs. ■

## Film and Video for Social Change

by Helen Rudie

Convincing examples of the power of film and video media to affect social change were presented during several workshops on "Film, Video and Social Change" at the First National NFLCP Convention.

### The Sky River Project

High schools with swimming pools in small Alaska Eskimo villages? The idea was preposterous in the late 1960s, yet today there exist a half dozen, thanks to successful community organizing work by Tim Kennedy, former director of the Sky River Project in Alaska.

A generous grant enabled Kennedy to work with video and 16mm film, both color and black and white, choosing the medium to suit the particular situation. He said he developed group trust and group process slowly and patiently among the natives, until films and tapes were made under their control according to content and editing. The natives identified the problems

and proposed the solutions, with Kennedy acting as a resource and a facilitator.

No one foresaw the dramatic results of a seemingly simple interview between Kennedy and a native spokesman for the village about the problem of Eskimo youth being sent 1300 miles to Indian schools in Oklahoma. As he wove a fish net before the black-and-white 16mm camera, the native spokesman proposed that a high school be built nearby where children from several villages could attend. No one had ever thought of this before. The village saw the film and approved. Nearby villages concurred. Kennedy aided the natives in organizing to show the film to the "right" senators and officials. Once the Eskimos grasped the idea of uniting for power and applying pressure where it counts, they overcame insurmountable problems. (The swimming pools allow fully dressed native children to practice escaping from icy waters should they fall overboard—drowning is the number one cause of accidental deaths in Alaska.)

"Most community organizing of the '60s was ineffective," Kennedy stated, explaining that imposed views and ways of working have little chance of success.

Kennedy said he used film and video to help the natives formulate and realize their goals in their own way. In the process he had to fire a cameraman who could not adjust to this philosophy.

"The western filmmaker mentality doesn't see people as the subjects of film," said Kennedy. "The filmmaker's vision is the subject of the film and people are the objects."

Tim Kennedy, speaking from the audience at another workshop "Access Is Not Enough," announced that he has three papers available of interest to those who agree that possession of a tool does not necessarily mean it is well used. Contact him for costs: **Tim Kennedy, 207 Stuart Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850. The three titles are 1) Human Factors that Affect Social Action Process, 2) Strategies for Social Change, and 3) A Comparison of 1/2" Video and Film Formats in Social Action Work.**

*Kennedy has been a community organizer for twelve years and is currently working on a doctorate at Cornell.*

### No Nukes

Two tapes, one from 1977 and one from recent 1978 activities of the Clamshell Alliance at the Seabrook, New Hampshire, nuclear power plant site gave powerful evidence at a session on effective alternate video.

"Seabrook 1977" is really a film about civil disobedience made via video. According to people who participated in producing the tape, problems abounded, such as lack of finances, difficulty of communication, and just not knowing what would happen at the April 30, 1977 occupation. Approximately thirty people with portapaks from all over New England banded together, divided the area geographically, and shot about 70 hours of tape.

A quick edit done right after the occupation went with a Clamshell group on a speaking tour even while people were still held in the armories, and the tape did a great deal to help the Alliance win support. It also helped overcome the Alliance's distrust of the media. A student at Hampshire College worked for over a year to edit the 70 hours of tape into a meaningful 90 minute tape.

George Stoney, speaking from the audience, urged that immediate use be made of this type of taping without waiting long for an edited product. However, David Skillikorn, one of the "Seabrook 1977" producers, said that in this case both happened and both had value.

Arrangements to secure a copy of "Seabrook 1977" may be made by writing to Video News Real, Box 1008, Amherst, MA 01002.

The second Seabrook tape, "Seabrook Calling," is an hour-long color tape about the June 24, 1978 demonstration. Nancy Cain of Media Bus and Phyllis Joffe, the producer, explained how it happened.

Four crews each shot and edited a 15-minute segment at the site of the demonstration. The tapes were edited immediately and then bicycled to 10 cable stations throughout New England for playback later that evening.



# SESSIONS

"One hundred and fifty stations would have carried it if we could have gotten it to them," said Cain.

Time didn't permit the whole tape to be shown at the convention workshop, but the last section showed the caliber of the whole by revealing the shallow coverage given to the event and to the nuclear protest movement by conventional television news. Arrangements for copies of the tape may be made by contacting **Northeast Video Network, Lainesville, NY 12450.**

To conclude the session, Sky Kahli from Seattle talked about alternate video coverage of western demonstrations against nuclear power. She, too, has a number of tapes available. Write to **Sky Kahli, High Horse Productions, 1318 Minot, Seattle, WA 98101, telephone (206) 622-9575.**

## Lainesville TV

"America's smallest television station" serves a small town near the Catskill Mountains in New York—and nowhere else. Lainesville TV was ingeniously hooked up with its own transmitter and broadcast on Channel 3 by a group of New York videomakers called "Mediabus," according to Lainesville TV producer Nancy Cain.

Cain kept her audiences spellbound with her presentation on Mediabus and Lainesville at a workshop on media and social change. She showed a variety of tapes produced by Mediabus and Lainesville townspeople, including "Sharon," a tape on wife-beating; "Harriet," a tape about a Lainesville housewife who escapes her humdrum existence; a tape on the Hunetr-Tannersville rescue squad fundraiser, a tongue-in-cheek portrayal of a boxing match between Lainesville folk—Frankie "the Fist" Farkle and Rocky Van; and "Greetings from Lainesville," a tape produced for WNET-TV about Lainesville TV, among others.

Lainesville TV has been programming almost seven years, according to Cain. At the beginning of her presentation, Cain distributed how-to handouts on hooking up your own station to workshop participants.

"We can walk into any house in

town, dressed in any costume and people will play the scene," she said.

Cain's tapes illustrated this point well. Whether confronted by the "Lainesville TV 'newsbuggy'"—a satirical approach to television newsgathering featuring a reporter pushing a baby carriage full of television gear, or reports of a UFO sighting in the town, Lainesville citizens responded enthusiastically on tape.

Lainesville TV is yet another alternative to cable/broadcast TV. For more information contact Nancy Cain, Mediabus, Lainesville, New York.

## Workshops and More Workshops

### Educational Uses of Cable TV

Panel Moderator—Carol Brown Eilber, University of Wisconsin Extension and Edu-cable; Earl Haydt, regional manager, American Television and Communications Corporation, Reading, Pennsylvania; and Willis Scadden, Hartford Public Schools, Wisconsin.

### Low Cost Set Design

Panel Moderator—Jean Rice, NFLCP Community Education Committee with John Glaeser, WHA-TV, Madison, Wisconsin.

### Advocacy—An Orientation to the Tiers of Regulation—The FCC Answers Your Questions

Panel Moderator—David Hoke, NFLCP Advocacy Committee with the FCC Cable Bureau Staff.

### How to Become a Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization

Panel Moderator—Sue Buske, chairperson, NFLCP National Steering Committee; Scott Hendrick, attorney for the Madison Community Access Center; Larry Larsen, attorney for the Wisconsin Arts Board; and a representative from the Minnesota Cable Communications Board.

### NFLCP Buying Cooperatives

Panel Moderator—Harriet Moss, director, Main Street Video (STAND), Derby, Connecticut.

## Libraries and Video

Panel Moderator—Kandy Brandt, Seattle Public Library.

## Colleges and Cable

Panel Moderator—Carol Brown Eilber, University of Wisconsin Extension and Edu-cable; Earl Haydt, regional manager, American Television and Communications Corporation, Reading, Pennsylvania; Dr. Jennis J. Bapst, Hibbing Community College, Hibbing, Minnesota; and Randy Van Dalsen, WELM-TV, East Lansing, Michigan.

## Government/Municipal Use of Cable

Panel Moderator—Sue Smoller, Madison, Wisconsin; Mike Aronson, former Alternate Media Center intern, Somerville, Massachusetts; Tom Ledbetter, city of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Bill Pupo, city of Spokane, Washington; Chuck Sherwood and John Sandifer, New York, NY.

## Satellites—II

Panel Moderator—Paige Amidon, Community Video Satellite Project; Sue Bednarczyk and Jean Rice, Community Video Satellite Project; and Bert Cowlan, Public Interest Satellite Association (PISA).

## Programming for the Hearing Impaired

Panel Moderator—Paige Amidon, NFLCP; Mary Eckloff and Sandra Misa, Wisconsin State Service Bureau for the Deaf, City 12, Madison, Wisconsin; and Tom Freebairn, coordinator, Telecommunications Projects, Deafness Research and Training Center, New York University.

## Access in Other Countries

Panel Moderator—Gary Knowles, NFLCP convention coordinator; George Stoney, Alternate Media Center; and Kevin Shea and Sylvane Walters, Cable Company, Scarabourough, Ontario, Canada.

## Basic Introduction to Local Cable Programming

Sue Buske, chairperson, NFLCP Steering Committee with Brian Owens, Austin Community Television.

(continued on page 17)

# SESSIONS



(continued from page 4)

changes to the agenda and the adoption of rules of order. The by-laws committee had met Thursday and Friday nights (the Friday session lasted until eight a.m. Saturday) and made a preliminary report at a five p.m. meeting on Friday.

The pressure of time grew as the weekend drew to a close. Michael Aronson, an NFLCP founder, and other members wondered what would happen if no by-laws could be approved before the close of the convention. What would happen to the elections to the new board and how would the NFLCP operate in the coming year? Every member of the delegation knew just how important the vote on the by-laws would be to the future of the NFLCP. Business had to be finished, no matter how long it took.

"Regional Power" was the first issue put to a vote. A solid compromise had been adopted by Bloch's committee, and it carried on the floor by a wide margin. The compromise position the delegation adopted states that regions will have a delegation that is proportionate to the number of members, but with an upper and lower limit. (See By-laws Section 2.01.)

The matter of the Executive Director's role came up next, and here feelings ran high. Jim Malec of University Community Video in Minneapolis got up and told the assembly that conflict around this point had split the assembly into two basic camps—a reform group who wanted to realign the power structure of the organization and a group who wished to see the structure remain basically the same, an "insurgent" group and a "conservative" group, if you will. Strong arguments pro and con had been made on this point, both on the floor and in private sessions.

The vote was cast in terms of forbidding a paid person from serving on the Board, and the measure failed by a single vote—23 yeas, with 24 needed for a majority. The seven abstentions held the balance.

Another compromise was proposed—to have the Executive Director serve on the board, but only as an ex-officio (non-voting) member. This motion passed with 29 votes, and the assembly breathed a sigh of relief. (Section 3.02)

No sooner had this vote been passed than the delegates were faced with the

issue of the standing committees. The "insurgent" group supported the principle that all board members should be elected to the board by the delegation. This position implied that board members who had gained a seat on the board (up until the time of the convention) would be forced to run at large. The "insurgent" group's reasoning was that many of the NFLCP's founding members would automatically remain on the board without a mandate of the membership unless they were forced to run for a seat in a general election. The opposing point of view, supported by many of the group's founding members, was that the current committee heads should be allowed to remain on the board to preserve continuity as the organization grew and changed. Others felt that it would be important for committees to be represented by a committee appointed member who knew the committees' day-to-day concerns.

It was moved to limit the board membership to those elected by the delegates and those elected in the regions. This proposal failed with only 22 affirmative votes, 21 negative votes, and three abstentions. The opposite proposal was made, debated, and voted. Three delegates then switched their votes. It was finally resolved that representatives from each standing committee would be placed on the new board, by a 24-18-3. (Section 3.04)

The winners joined the losers in celebrating the relief of a job well done. There was no protest and no complaint. There was no move to bring the issue into debate again on Sunday. Even with the slim majority vote, *everyone* approved of the democratically-decided outcome.

The delegates then passed a strongly worded affirmative action by-law that was drafted in committee (Section 9.03). At this point, the "burned-out" assembly members courageously voted to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday to finish their business and prepare for the Board elections scheduled for noon.

On Sunday morning, the quiet mood of the delegates contrasted sharply with the tension of the previous evening. The session was devoted to "cleaning up" the by-laws and passing the advocacy platform. Before adjourning at ten, the delegates resolved to invite as many convention-goers as possible

to the noon session when nomination for board officers would be made.

With a few dozen members observing at the noon meeting, the assembly began to bog down in technicalities and arguments and some of the strain began to show for the first time. A last-minute attempt by Randy Van Dalsen to create a standing by-laws committee was defeated 19-18, and a move by Bob Flug and Ken Nagelberg to create a sliding scale dues structure for the Fed met a similar fate.

At last, the nominating process began, and it seemed that it would last forever. At its close, the list of 18 candidates filled two large sheets of paper in the front of the room. Several candidates withdrew—including Ann McIntosh and Jean Rice. Rice had already been sent to the Board by action of the Community Education Committee.

Somehow, the entire four-day process of delegate meetings, workshops and informal encounters had identified the hardest workers, the best minds, and the most sincere intentions. The list of nominees reflected the pride of the new Federation. The proposed candidates had undergone a "trial by fire" during the convention, said John Helmore of Portable Channel, and now the stage was set for the election process to finish the work of the delegate assembly.

With some speeches prepared in advance, and others given spontaneously, each candidate spoke for two minutes. Most concentrated on their qualifications to serve, but others stressed ideology or commitment to specific issues.

The influence of our chosen medium was amply demonstrated by David O'Keefe's presentation. O'Keefe, of the Tri-County Library, Rome, Georgia, had been called away from the convention on a personal emergency, so his speech was presented on videotape. The delegates' response to the candidate's eerie image on the eight-foot projection screen was positive—his was one of the few speeches that stimulated applause.

An arduous system had been designed to cast ballots for the six at-large openings on the new board. A total of 264 votes were cast—with each delegate voting for six candidates.

The first ballot gave four individuals a majority vote. Carol Brown Eilber, Sallie Fischer, Sue Miller Buske, and O'Keefe became the first Federation

(continued on next page)





*By-Laws Committee meets in the wee hours (photo, Bob Vitale).*

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leaders elected by a national delegation of NFLCP members.

A second and third ballot ultimately added Wisconsin Bob Rodriguez to the fifth seat, and a mellow, tired mood pervaded in the assembly. It seemed that the delegates were willing to vote all afternoon to fill the last seat. There were three contenders—Diana Peck, who had served admirably as parliamentarian for the meetings; Anne Stonehocker, from Portable Channel in Rochester, NY; and Dave Bloch, chairman of the by-laws committee. Peck's withdrawal after the third vote did not resolve the issue, and it took a fourth and then a fifth ballot to elect Bloch over Stonehocker, 18 to 17.

"Block voting," someone quipped. Many delegates were already on their way to the airport, and a sense of finality was felt in the room.

The assembly leadership tried to keep enough order to finish the last minor items of business as delegates moved around congratulating the winners as well as the losers. Sallie Fischer gave a thorough financial report on the NEA grant for the convention, the assembly overwhelmingly supported a Far West resolution protesting the California "Cable Rights" bill, and several new committees were formally created.

By five o'clock, there was no longer a quorum present, and Gene Carey's "last chance" for the airport limo" call brought relief and excitement.

The work had been a source of both great strain and great pride. Controversies and disagreements did not be-

come personal attacks or conflicts. The rules were followed and the decisions were fair. No one said he or she was excluded from any decision. The final consensus of the delegation was that the struggle was worth the result.

The only criticisms of the arduous business sessions were minor. Jean Rice, Bryan Owens, and others pointed out that the long working hours of the delegates had created an unnatural separation between the delegation and the rest of the folks attending the convention. In addition, many delegates were too tired or busy to attend the fantastic "Hometown Video" screenings.

"You don't give birth to an organization every day" was the way several people expressed their thoughts about the unfortunate necessity of using so much convention time for the debate of issues. Most participants agreed that the process of delegate deliberation was crucial in the building of a strong organization and there was no manner in which it would have been avoided.

*This writer hopes that all non-delegates now understand more fully the amazing process that went on in Madison. And next year, we hope, the debate on the issues will reverberate even more loudly as the Federation continues to grow, change, and be controlled by its membership.*

*All members of the NFLCP will receive copies of the NFLCP by-laws in the mail.* ■

## Federation Trunkline

*(continued from page 6)*

new and old friends that made the *First Annual Convention* so special or to describe the feeling most had upon leaving. . . . A few memorable images and sounds. . . . An exhausted and jubilant *Larry Staab* standing next to eight blue-and-gold award certificates that honored the best of the *Hometown, U.S.A. Video Festival*. . . . The cheer that went up as the last article and section of the NFLCP By-Laws were adopted as the clock raced toward the convention's close. . . . Watching intently through the smoke as *Blue Carreker* stepped to the mike and delivered a song that hushed the crowd at the downtown NFLCP party. . . . *Bill McCauley* scrutinizing the NFLCP

membership map, pointing to a miniscule dote near the south border of Georgia, and proudly exclaiming, "That's *me!*" . . . A weary conventioneer lamenting the fact that the hard schedule of the conference "left too little time for the budding of romance" . . . *Nora de John* from Davenport reflecting that coming to the convention "made me feel a part of the *circuit*" of cable "experts" in the Midwest. . . . Hearing numerous voices echo, "If I see another bratwurst" . . . Watching *Don Smith*, *Randy Feldman*, and *Diana Peck* break all records for consciousness endurance for chairing, recording, and monitoring the seemingly endless delegate sessions morning, noon, and night.

*We heard them exclaim as they drove out of sight. . . . "See you in San Diego in August!" . . . "How about next year in Austin?" . . .* It was heard that after the meetings ended on Sunday, all sorts of strange messages were appearing over the C.B. channels in the Capital City. Was it just our imagination, or did they seem to be homeward-bound conventioners with handles "Cable Queen," "Bird Woman," "Media Man," "Brillo," and "Point of Order"? ■

## Fundraising seeks members

The Fundraising Committee of the NFLCP is actively seeking new members and encouraging anyone with interest or knowledge in the field to join. While Committee members are seated on a voluntary basis, the Committee emphasizes that some expertise in raising money in either the public or private sector is needed, and members must expect to work at research and collaborate on proposals. The Committee has heretofore been based in the Northeast and would like to see a broader geographical distribution of its members, in order that there be more input to possible support for NFLCP. Volunteers should remember that this Committee is essential to the life of the Federation, and its members must be committed to the long term duration of NFLCP. All volunteers please send name, address, and phone to: Ann McIntosh, c/o NFLCP Newsletter, P.O. Box 119, Cambridge, MA 02142.



## Uplink/Downlink

(continued from page 6)

September, 1979, is an international meeting to chart the overall direction of telecommunications for the next two decades. It will review existing international uses of the radio spectrum, and authorize use and development of new spectral bands.

The PISA/NITC filing calls for several important changes to be made in the U.S. position at WARC, and offers guidelines for how future satellite systems should develop in the public interest. It argues to preserve future options for low-cost widespread public service access to advanced satellite systems, calling for:

1. international rule changes that will permit the development of extremely small satellite ground terminals for educational, medical and community service use;
2. the dedication of a band of frequencies solely for public service use of advanced satellite communications systems;
3. rules that would require inefficient, spectrum wasteful and costly satellite systems to be turned off as more advanced and inexpensive technology becomes available.

The NFLCP will be filing "Reply Comments" with the FCC on the PISA/NITC document, advocating that changes be made in the U.S. positions for the upcoming WARC to preserve future options for public service groups to have low-cost access to advanced satellite systems.

### Telecommunications Task Force

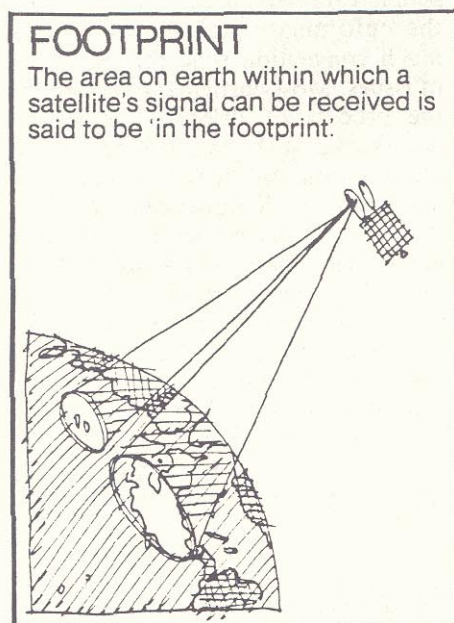
An NFLCP Telecommunications Task Force was established at the first meeting of the Board of Directors on July 9. The Task Force was established to educate NFLCP members on the current state of satellite technology and its relationship to the public sector by:

1. working in conjunction with Community Education and the *Newsletter* to collect and disseminate pertinent information;

2. assisting the Advocacy Committee in drafting statements concerning telecommunications;

3. aiding the Board of Directors in assessing the communications needs of the organization, and determining how to better communications among regions.

The Task Force grew out of the basic philosophy of the Federation to advocate access to all technologies. It was established for one year, with a report on its activities and findings to be made at the next annual meeting. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Task Force, contact me at the address below.



## Convention Draws 240

(continued from page 1)

onstrated a concern for community programming and local production that encouraged us to believe that enlightened attitudes are *not* extinct at a corporate level. Tim Kennedy shared his insights in the use of video and film for social change. Media Bus and Nancy Cain sent people home with new inspiration. The list could go on and on.

We came from across the country as long-lost relatives, but now the family is together. There will be other reunions—we'll discover many other cousins in the future. But it will be some time before another gathering is as memorable for the emotion and good

### Footprints

*The area on the earth within which a satellite's signal can be received.*

Federation members currently making "Footprints" are:

**Jean Rice**—new Board member of the Public Interest Satellite Association (PISA), recently appointed to the Telecommunications Task Force of the American Association of State and University Colleges.

**Nancy Jesuale**—on staff at the Ebensburg, Pennsylvania site of the Appalachian Education Satellite Project (AESP) using NASA's ATS-3 and ATS-6 satellites to provide in-service education for teachers.

**Robi Gordon**—new member of the Community Video Satellite Project Proposal Committee, also on staff of Citizen Involvement Training Project (CITP) at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, encouraging the integration of satellite technology into their community education activities.

### Your Chance to UPLINK

This is the first in a series of UPLINK/DOWNLINK columns on telecommunications. In this column *you* are the UPLINK, so if you have any information on telecommunications projects, or are involved in working with satellites, teletype, two-way television, amateur radio, etc., contact me: Paige Amidon, 147 West 87th Street, New York, NY 10024, (212) 362-0934. ■

spirits we discovered. Seldom can the event exceed our wildest fantasies. At our First National Convention, it did. We can wallow, briefly, in our success. But now we must move on.

*When the convention was over I joined some of those same sirens who had plied me with Sangria in New York City. They sat around an outdoor table at the Fess Hotel sipping Tequila Sunrises and draining pitchers of Old Milwaukee beer. It had worked, worked well, and worked for all of us. But I had learned something...next time Sangria won't be enough. I'm familiar with its power. The next time I agree to anything like this it will take Jack Daniel's, nothing less.* ■



# SESSIONS

(continued from page 13)

## Live Cablecasting

Panel Moderator—Gary Knowles, NFLCP convention coordinator; Gene Linder, director of programming, production and national access for American Television and Communications Corporation systems; Jeff Lukowsky, professor of educational media, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin; Marta Peck, independent video producer and former president of York Community Access Television, York, Pennsylvania; and Steve Sieher, production manager, Complete Channel TV, Madison, Wisconsin

## Introduction to Satellites

Panel Moderator—Paige Amidon, Community Video Satellite Project; Gary Schober, design engineer, VIS, Inc., New York, NY; and Ted Wasselew, program manager, CTS/ATS, NASA.

## Video and the Television Aesthetic

Panel Moderator—Maurice Jacobsen, New School for Social Research, New York, NY and American University, Washington, DC; and Stan VanDerBeek, University of Maryland.

## Rural Cable—

### The Kellogg-Trempealau County Project, Wisconsin

Panel Moderator—Rod Moen, director, Western Wisconsin Communications Cooperative with Carol Brown Eilber, University of Wisconsin Extension.

## Working with the Endowments in the Arts and Humanities

Panel Moderator—Sue Buske, chairperson, NFLCP National Steering Committee; Jerrold Rouby, director, Wisconsin Arts Board; Steve Wieland, executive director, Federation of Public Programs in the Humanities; and a representative from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## NFLCP Tape Library Development

Panel Moderator—Phyllis Joffe, Video Newsreal, with Jean Rice, NFLCP Community Education Committee.

## Editing Systems, Cablecasting and Getting the Best Signal

Panel Moderator—Sue Bednarczyk, former Alternate Media Center staff person with Gary Schober, design engineer, VIS, Inc., New York, NY

## Churches and Cable

Panel Moderator—Steve Umhoefer, priest director, Diocesan Office of Communications, Madison, Wisconsin and vice president, UNDA USA (National Catholic Association for Broadcasters); Bruce Mosher, United Methodist Communications, New York, NY; and Cliff Spaine, campus minister, DeKalb, Illinois.

## Creative Explorations into Video Technology

Panel Moderator—Stan VanDerBeek, University of Maryland.

## Video with Young People

Panel Moderator—Jean Rice, NFLCP Community Education Committee; Manuel Gonzalez, producer of bilingual children's programs and programs for children with learning disabilities, Oakland, California; Bob Rodriguez The Children's Channel, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; John Hellmore, Portable Channel, Rochester, NY; and Bill Ziegler, Monona Public Schools, Wisconsin.

## Access Is Not Enough

Panel Moderator—Gary Knowles, convention coordinator; Dr. Frank Carlile, Department of Sociology, Union College, Schenectady, NY; and George Stoney, Alternate Media Center.

## New Formats in Equipment

Panel Moderator—Ralph Whiting, Instructional Media and Technology supervisor, Department of Public Instruction, Madison, Wisconsin.

## Developing and Writing Grants and What Foundations Look For in a Grant

Panel Moderator—Jean Rice, New York State Commission on Cable TV; Sue Buske, chairperson, NFLCP National Steering Committee; Ann McIntosh, NFLCP National Steering Committee; and Lee Ward James, Wisconsin Arts Board Grants Officer.

## Developing Special Audiences

Panel Moderator—Manuel Gonzalez, producer of bilingual programming and programming for children with learning disabilities, Oakland, California with Jerry Voss, Washington State Migrant Education Center.

## Developing and Writing Grants

Panel Moderator—Ann McIntosh, NFLCP National Steering Committee; Jean Rice, New York State Commission on Cable TV; Drew Schaffer, Dubuque community access coordinator; and Lee Ward James, Wisconsin Arts Board Grants Officer.

## Working with CETA

Panel Moderator—Sue Buske, chairperson, NFLCP National Steering Committee.

## Publicizing Your Events

Panel Moderator—Sue Bednarczyk, former Alternate Media Center staff person; Robbie Gordon; Prim Oliver, access coordinator, Schenectady Cablevision; and Marta Peck, independent producer, York, Pennsylvania.

## Is Anybody Watching?

Panel Moderator—Jean Rice, New York State Commission on Cable TV; Don Augustino, National Science Foundation; and David Korte, Cable Television Information Center.

# Letters

(continued from page 2)

The second contest I am now trying out is the "Name Contest." This one began July 11 and will run through August and September. I solicited 15 businesses in Devils Lake to participate. They provide three free coupons for free gift certificates for merchandise from their stores and the advertising copy which they want me to use on the "Banner."

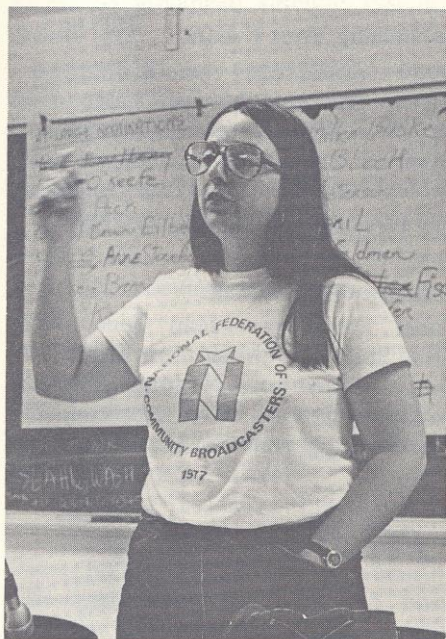
Fifteen times each month, 15 different subscribers' names are drawn and typed on the "Banner" with a different advertiser's name and advertising. This runs for 24 hours, so the business is getting free advertising except for the price of the gift they give away. The subscriber is asked to call the office by

(continued on next page)



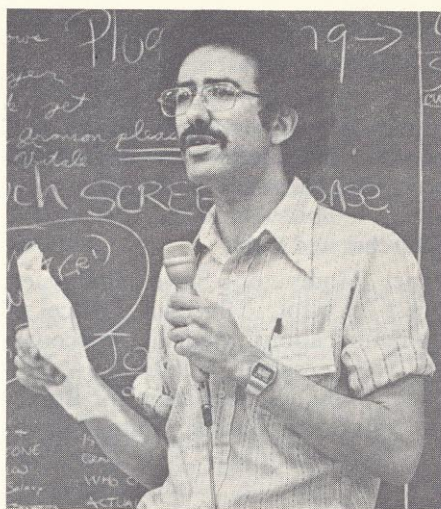
# NFLCP Board of Directors

The delegates, at the business meeting, chose a possible 19 member Board consisting of eight regional representatives, six at-large members, and five representatives from the standing committees: Advocacy, Community Education, Fundraising, Newsletter, and Regional Development. Not shown is Justin Galler, Midwest regional representative.



**SALLIE E. FISCHER**  
Chairperson

Sallie is an at-large Board member, Northeast Regional Coordinator, and former Northeast Regional Representative to the National Steering Committee; co-founder Connecticut Cable Network; taught Community Television, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Connecticut; member, Northeast Video Network; NFLCP publicity coordinator; participates in NFLCP Fundraising, Advocacy and Newsletter committees; Project Director, NEA grant for NFLCP National Convention.



**DAVE BLOCH**  
Vice-Chairperson

Dave is an at-large board member and Chairperson of the NFLCP By-laws Committee; employed as Media Specialist at Edison State Community College in Ohio; BA, Speech and Theatre from the University of Michigan; MA, Instructional Development and Technology, Michigan State University; recently helped organize access group in Piqua/Covington, Ohio.



**CAROL BROWN EILBER**  
Secretary

Carol, an at-large member of the Board, is an Assistant Professor with the University of Wisconsin-Extension; designs and coordinates continuing education offerings in television, radio, and instructional technology; member and former Chairperson Madison's Cable TV Program Advi-

sory Council; Chairperson, Madison's Educable Consortium for Educational Access Cable TV; Board Member, Madison Community Access Center and the Wisconsin Audio Visual Association.



**MANUEL GONZALEZ**  
Treasurer

Manuel, the Far West Regional Representative to the Board, is a founding member of the NFLCP, a film graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute and a former apprentice with the Alternate Media Center. "I readily embrace the cause of access to CATV because community media can represent a real model for other communities in the Third World." Hobbies are video for social change, low ridin' Raza Art Projects, and playing with newborn son.

**SUE MILLER BUSKE**  
National Coordinator

Sue, an at-large member of the Board, operates the NFLCP national office; employed as Executive Director, Miami Valley Cable Television Consortium in Ohio, a unique six city consortium established to promote local cable programming and cooperation between the cities; former Alternate Media Center Intern and Programming Director at Teleprompter in Dubuque, Iowa.

**JEAN RICE**

Jean is the Chairperson and Board Representative of the Community Education Committee; works in the Division of Municipal Assistance, New York State Commission on Cable TV; board member; Community Video

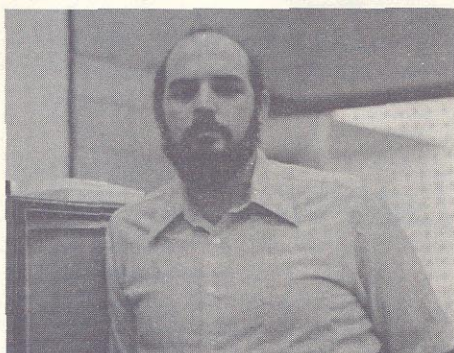


Satellite Project, Public Interest Satellite Association; past member, Program Advisory Board, Madison Wisconsin, Board of Directors, Madison Community Access Center.



#### **CATHY ENLOW**

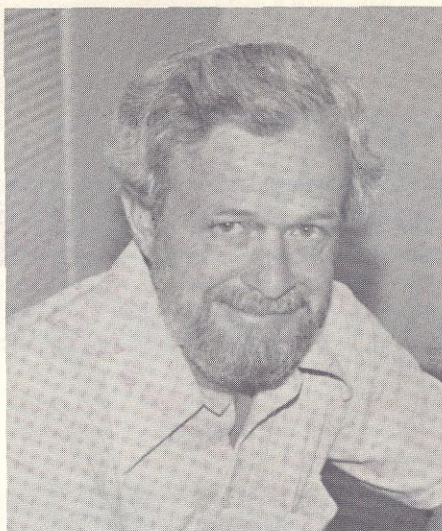
Cathy, the Central States Regional Representative to the Board, is employed as the Video Librarian, Mishewaka Public Library, Mishewaka, Indiana; BA, Psychology, University of Nebraska; MLS, Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois; produces and helps library patrons produce programs of local interest for circulation and cablecast on 1/2-inch and 3/4-inch color equipment.



#### **ROBERT V. VITALE**

Bob, the Advocacy Committee representative to the Board, is employed as Acting Director of Media, Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts; BA, Radio and Television, Florida Technological University; First Class Radiotelephone License, FCC; Chairman, Pittsfield City Cable Com-

mission; experienced in production and administration of all phases of print and visual media.



#### **DAVID O'KEEFE**

Dave, an at-large member of the Board, heads up the video department at the tri-county regional library, Rome, Georgia; BS, Speech, West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas; former production supervisor, KLRN-TV, Texas, production manager, Georgia ETV network, and independent producer; grandfather of two.



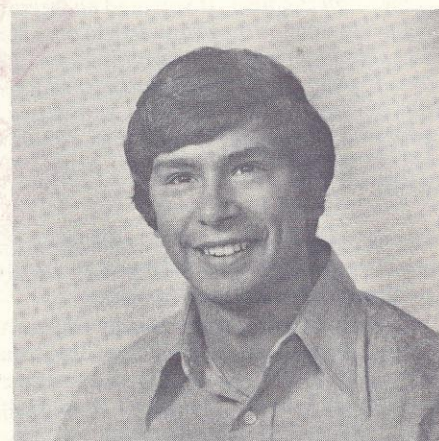
#### **PHILLIS JOFFE**

Phillis, the Northeast Regional Representative to the Board, also serves on the Community Education Committee, and is involved in promoting the NFLCP Library at South Hadley, Mass.; member of Video NewsReal, the NorthEast Video Network and National Federation of Community Broadcasters. Most recent work has

been in the production and distribution of anti-nuke tapes in New England; other experience in counseling and raising children.

#### **LAWRENCE E. STAAB**

Larry is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative to the Board and Hometown USA Video/Film Festival Coordinator; employed as Media Producer for the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh; Chairman of the Board, Pittsburgh Community Video Center; presently setting up the NFLCP First National Bicycle Tour video/film distribution network.



#### **ROBERT RODRIGUEZ**

Bob, an at-large Board member, teaches Communication Arts, Mass. Media, and Dramatic Arts at Sun Prairie High School, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; BA and MA, University of Wisconsin, Plattville; MA, UCLA, where he became involved in children's theatre and children's TV programming; Chairman, Children's programming council of Sun Prairie; Member, Sun Prairie Cable Commission.

#### **BARRY McQUILKEN**

Barry, the Newsletter Committee liaison member of the Board, runs the Elizabeth Peabody House Video Workshop, a video/access/cable TV project geared toward a low income housing project in Somerville, Massachusetts; BS Physics, University of Lowell, Lowell, Massachusetts; involved in access/cable TV in Somerville since 1974; member NEVN.



NFLCP  
Box 832  
Dubuque, IA 52001

David Korte MA/IND/AUG78  
Cable TV Information Center  
The Urban Institute  
2100 M St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037



## Info Matchup

### Bulletin

**Snip-It** The NFLCP Telecommunications Task Force wants to keep people informed on what's happening in areas outside of cable. You can help. If you read an interesting newspaper or magazine article on: satellites, teletype, two-way television, or your own favorite form of telecommunication—clip or copy it, identify when and where it appeared, then mail it to: Paige Amidon, 147 West 87th Street, New York, NY 10024.

The Greater London Arts Association has installed Europe's first half-inch-to-Umatic automatic interface unit for editing.

The unit, called **Trigger Happy**, shifts the editing log-jam for half-inch video, thus making it a viable low-cost documentary production format for the first time. Half-inch users now have all the speed and flexibility of Umatic editing with the RM400, without the need to transfer first to Umatic (losing a generation) or do stopwatch editing (very slow and tiring). The system is accurate to 1/10th second so that editing between words is possible. Although custom built, further units are available at around \$650. No mechanical modification of either RM400 or NV3160 are required. Contact: Maureen McCue, GLAA, 25/31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF, 01-387 9541.

**The NFLCP Tape Exchange** is finally gearing up for effective activity. Anyone with tape to distribute at cost, and/or tapes to exchange contact: Community Education Committee, c/o Jean Rice, Hill Hollow Road, Petersburg, NY 12138.

### Publications

**Communications for Tomorrow** This first report of the Aspen Institute Special Task Force on Communications Policy-making examines in 15 essays the social, economic, and legal implications of our new communications systems, the policy options they present, and the capability of existing policymaking institutions to address them. Available from: The Aspen Institute, P.O. Box 1652, 360 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94302, (415) 327-2270.

**Journal of the Centre for Advanced TV Studies** This biannual international review and periodical guide of video and mass media is available from CATS, 42 Theobald's Rd., London, WC1X 8NW, England. 24 pp. 23.00.

### Funding

**NEA Work Intern Program** 13-week internships designed to familiarize participants with NEA policies, procedures, and operations, and to give an overview of the U.S. arts scene will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants must be sponsored by a college, university, or other non-profit organization. Non-matching grants include a stipend of \$2480 plus travel expenses. Program dates and deadlines are: Feb. 5 to May 4, 1979 (deadline is Sept. 22, 1978); June 4 to Aug. 31, 1979 (deadline date is Jan. 22, 1979); and Sept. 24 to Dec. 21, 1979 (deadline is May 11, 1979). For information and applications, write: Intern Program Administrator, Mail Stop 552, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. 20506.

**California Council on the Humanities in Public Policy** Grants for video projects addressing public policy issues and relations to the theme, "Pursuit of Community in California." Contact the Council at 312 Sutter St., Suite 601, San Francisco, CA 94108. (415) 391-1474. Deadlines are quarterly: July 31, October 31, January 31.

**Youthgrants:** The National Endowment for the Humanities offers grants to applicants under 30 to pursue projects in the humanities. Endowment-supported film projects are usually of a historical, research nature, and only a limited number are funded. For info write: Youthgrants, Mail Stop 900, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 20506. Deadline: Nov. 15.

## Calendar

**Columbus International Film Festival**—Oct. 19. Contact Columbus Film Council, 8 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215. Deadline: July 10, 1978.

**Ohio Video Festival**—October 21-22. Entry forms available from Athens Video Festival, Box 388, Athens, OH 45701. Deadline: September 25.

**October 22—Northeast Regional meeting**, Schenectady, NY. Contact Regional Coordinator Sallie Fischer for place and time: P.O. Box 75, Derby, CT 06418, (203) 735-7075.

**Ninth Annual Film Festival on the Exceptional Individual**—April 10. The University of Southern California, University Affiliated Program at Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles and the Southern California Region II of the American Association on Mental Deficiency are sponsoring this film festival which will include outstanding professional, independent and commercial films and video tapes that were produced during the past year, portraying handicapped children and adults. Application information: Mr. Neil Goldstein, Director of Training in Instructional Technology, University Affiliated Program, Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles, Box 54700 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, CA 90054.

## Letters

(continued from page 17)

9 a.m. the following day to receive the coupon. If they call during working hours the message is changed to read that they have won the specified gift. Some of the participating businesses are grocery stores, restaurants, floral shops, and drug stores.

I'm hoping this contest will generate an interest in watching our Channel 3 and that the advertisers will continue to advertise on a paying basis.

Sincerely,  
Myrna Braunagel  
K&K Cable TV  
RR #2, E. 14th St.  
Devils Lake, ND 58301